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The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A lifting device for containers which can be handled by means of container handling equipment, said lifting device comprising:

at least one hydraulic cylinder arranged on a support frame with a piston and a piston rod,

at least two horizontal guiding cross-bars spaced apart from each other, wherein lengthwise displacement of said piston rod is transformed into a synchronous upward and downward movement of said horizontal guiding cross-bars, said horizontal guiding cross-bars connected to a load-receiving device for the container, said horizontal guiding cross-bars being guided on vertical ~~beams~~ support pillars of the support frame at both ends, for the lifting and lowering of the container,

wherein transformation of the lengthwise displacement of said piston rod into the upward and downward movement of said horizontal guiding cross-bars is accomplished by at least one angle lever pivoted on said support frame, said at least one angle lever comprising two lever arms, one of said lever arms being connected to said piston rod and the other of said lever arms being connected to one of said guiding cross-bars.

2. (currently amended) The lifting device per claim 1, including a second angle lever, wherein said one of said lever arms connected to said piston rod is linked by a rod-shaped coupling element to a lever arm of another angle lever, wherein a lever arm of said second angle lever, wherein the other lever arm of said second angle lever is connected to the other one of said horizontal guiding cross-bars, such that traction devices suspended from wherein extending and retracting said piston rod causes said horizontal guiding cross-bars to move synchronously to each other in the vertical direction.

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3. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 2, wherein each of said guiding cross-bars is connected by a coupling rod to one of said lever arms.

4. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 3, wherein each of said guiding cross-bars is connected by a coupling rod to one of said lever arms on either side of the middle of the cross-bar.

5. (currently amended) The lifting device per claim 4, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device, wherein said load-receiving device for the container is suspended in the form of a spreader from said guiding cross-bars via traction devices.

6. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 1, wherein each of said guiding cross-bars is connected by a coupling rod to one of said lever arms.

7. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 6, wherein each of said guiding cross-bars is connected by a coupling rod to one of said lever arms on either side of the middle of the cross-bar.

8. (currently amended) The lifting device per claim 7, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device, wherein said load-receiving device for the container is suspended in the form of a spreader from said guiding cross-bars via traction devices.

9. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 2, wherein each of said guiding cross-bars is connected by a coupling rod to one of said lever arms on either side of the middle of the cross-bar.

10. (currently amended) The lifting device per claim 9, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device, wherein said load-receiving device for the

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container is suspended in the form of a spreader from said guiding cross-bars-via-traction devices.

11. (currently amended) The lifting device per claim 1, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device, wherein said load-receiving device for the container is suspended in the form of a spreader from said guiding cross-bars-via-traction devices.

12. (currently amended) The lifting device per claim 2, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device, wherein said load-receiving device for the container is suspended in the form of a spreader from said guiding cross-bars-via-traction devices.

13. (currently amended) The lifting device per claim 3, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device, wherein said load-receiving device for the container is suspended in the form of a spreader from said guiding cross-bars-via-traction devices.

14. (withdrawn) The lifting device per claim 1, including deflected cables fastened to said piston rod for transforming the lengthwise displacement into the upward and downward motion, said deflected cables being at least indirectly connected at the other end to said guiding cross-bars, wherein freely turning deflection rollers cause the deflection of said deflected cables.

15. (withdrawn) The lifting device per claim 14, wherein the deflection of said deflected cables occurs in the direction vertical to the respective guiding cross-bar.

16. (new) A lifting device for containers adapted to be handled by means of container handling equipment, said lifting device comprising:

a support frame having at least two vertical support pillars;

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at least one hydraulic cylinder arranged on said support frame with a piston and a piston rod;

at least two horizontal guiding cross-bars spaced apart from each other, said horizontal guiding cross-bars connected to a load-receiving device adapted to support a container;

at least one angle lever pivoted on said support frame, said at least one angle lever comprising two lever arms, wherein one of said lever arms is connected to said piston rod and the other of said lever arms is connected to one of said horizontal guiding cross-bars; and

wherein extending and retracting said piston rod causes synchronous upward and downward movement of said horizontal guiding cross-bars, said movement of said horizontal guiding cross-bars causing the lifting and lowering of the load-receiving device and the container, wherein said at least two vertical support pillars of the support frame guide the movement of said horizontal guiding cross-bars.

17. (new) The lifting device per claim 16, including a second angle lever, wherein said one of said lever arms connected to said piston rod is linked by a rod-shaped coupling element to a lever arm of said second angle lever, wherein the other lever arm of said second angle lever is connected to the other one of said horizontal guiding cross-bars, wherein extending and retracting said piston rod causes said horizontal guiding cross-bars to move synchronously in the vertical direction.

18. (new) The lifting device per claim 16, wherein each of said guiding cross-bars is connected by a coupling rod to one of said lever arms.

19. (new) The lifting device per claim 17, wherein each of said guiding cross-bars is connected by a coupling rod to one of said lever arms on either side of the middle of the guiding cross-bar.

20. (new) The lifting device per claim 16, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device for the container, wherein said load-receiving device is suspended from said guiding cross-bars in the form of a spreader.